

Examiner's Amendment and Reasons of Allowance

The Status of Claims

Claims 1, and 5-12 are pending.

Claims 1, and 5-12 are allowed.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with an attorney of record, Mr. Arthur S. Garrett on 2/15/10.

I. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 4 on page 2 (amendment dated on 11/18/09):

The opening parenthesis “ --(--” before the term “wherein” is deleted.

II. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been withdrawn due to the modification of the claims.

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- The rejection of Claims 1-2 , 4-5, and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller (US 4,212,823) has been withdrawn due to the modification of the claims and applicants' convincing argument.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning the communication after allowance such as sending all post-allowance correspondence should be directed to " Box Issue Fee" or faxed directly to PUBS at 703-305-8755. This will expedite the process of these papers.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Taylor Victor Oh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625

2/14/10

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